

# BROWNSVILLE DAILY HERALD.

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**A BIG FIGHT.**

Will Try To Do Up S. P. And Break Harriman's Controlling Grip on the Pacific Coast, It Is Alleged.

New York, February 12.—The Tribune has this St. Paul special: It was disclosed here today that one of the most gigantic transcontinental railroad deals ever known is being formulated. It means the consolidation of the Northern Pacific and the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul and the Great Northern and the Burlington into two great transcontinental lines. It also means an attempt to shut out the Harriman interests on the Pacific coast, and a desperate fight between the four lines mentioned and the Harriman lines. As disclosed today by an authority of unquestioned integrity, the situation is as follows:

The undertaking involves two separate transactions. They have been in the minds of the promoters for several years.

The proposal means two of the greatest railroad systems in the world. The Great Northern, with its \$120,000,000 of iron ore lease, and the sale of rights to its own and Burlington stockholders amounting to \$50,000,000 more, will cement these two roads into one vast track system to the coast. The Northern Pacific, whose stock is actually worth \$300 on the basis of its earnings, may easily devote \$100,000,000 toward the purchase of stock in the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul now extending to the Pacific coast and practically paralleling the Northern Pacific. The Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul will find it more convenient at point along the route to use the Northern Pacific tracks. Indeed, conferences have already been held between the officials to this end.

A railroad attorney, whose business brings him in touch with the financial end of all these roads, asserts that affairs are so shaping that one can reach no other conclusion, and he predicts that within two years at least, and possibly sooner, the four roads mentioned will have become two great transcontinental lines by a process worked out by James J. Hill. The attorney asserted his belief in the early consummation of this scheme, because of the fact that Mr. Hill is getting along in years and wishes to see his ambition realized as quickly as possible. Railroad men do not doubt that such an arrangement would be beneficial to all the roads concerned. It is simply a matter of working out the details, an easy matter for men of millions.

As the first move, it is understood the Burlington bonds, guaranteed by the Northern Pacific, are to be called in and retired. The effect will be that the Northern Pacific and the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul will be merged, and the Great Northern and Burlington will be made one system. It is understood that the Great Northern will absorb the Burlington, while for a few years the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul and the Northern Pacific will work in conjunction, the Northern Pacific finally absorbing the St. Paul road. These are the plans outlined by parties so close to J. J. Hill as to make the story seem inspired.

**Colonial Tea.**

The Woman's Auxiliary of the Episcopal church will give a Colonial Tea at the residence of Mrs. J. J. Cocke, on Saturday, Feb. 24, from 4:30 to 9 p. m.

There will be a musical program, and the reception committee will be dressed in colonial costumes. Admission, 25 cents, which includes refreshments. Russian tea, chocolate with a variety of cake will be served. Everyone cordially invited.

**A SILK FACTORY.**

It Will be Established in Texas if the Alcohol Tariff be Removed.

Washington, Feb. 12.—The bill pending before the House Committee on Ways and Means to remove the internal revenue tax from denatured alcohol, in which Texas has a direct interest, as the result of its passage will be the establishment in that State of a factory for the making of artificial silks, which in appearance, finish and texture are said to be quite equal to real silk, are made of cotton chiefly, but the employment of a large quantity of high potency alcohol is necessary in fabricating them. An internal revenue tax of \$2 a gallon is now imposed on alcohol, and this adds so much to the cost of manufacturing these goods that the industry can not be made profitable. Denatured alcohol has other utilities, too. For one thing, it is a substitute for gasoline, which because of the multiplying of automobiles, is increasing in price rapidly. It may be used in all kinds of power engines and the statement has been made by those who are advocating the removal of this tax that its manufacture would enable farmers to use it as power for their agricultural implements. Also it is said to be a better and cheaper illuminant than kerosene, and for this reason the Standard Oil Company is said to be opposing the bill in its usual subtle and potent way. And it has an ally in the Women's Christian Temperance Union, which frowns on any legislation that tends to cheapen things that intoxicate. It is hoped, though, that the W. C. T. U. may be persuaded to desist; for it is said that even those lips that smack in relish of forty-rod whisky can not endure the taste of denatured alcohol however diluted, so that those who are concerned with the promotion of temperance have no reason to be apprehensive over the prospect of denatured alcohol. Mr. Wiley who is Chief Chemist in the Department of Agriculture, favors the proposition. He told the committee that farmers could make this kind of alcohol at a cost not to exceed 15 cents a gallon, even appraising corn at 35 cents a bushel. It is thought the bill will pass, though the opposition to it is by no means inconsiderable. As to the consequences for Texas, no more may be said now than that a factory for the making of artificial silk and edgings and embroidery will in all probability be established in Texas, where the corn grows to make the alcohol and where the cotton grows to make the fabrics.

**WHAT CONSTITUTES SHIPPING?**

Men Carried Game in Their Hands Out of the County.

Corpus Christi, Tex., Feb. 12.—Two prominent citizens of Corpus Christi have been fined in the San Patricio county court for alleged violation of the game laws. There are similar charges pending against others. The facts in the case are as follows:

On Nov. 11 the defendants spent the day at Gum Hollow shooting ducks. That night they brought home on the train the ducks they had killed. They are not charged with having done any unlawful shooting, but with shipping game out of the county without first making affidavit to the fact that the game was for their own use. The prosecution maintained that the carrying of the ducks constituted shipping them, while the defense contended that it did not, as the birds were brought in the hands of the men who killed them, and that carrying by hand was not shipping. The case will be appealed, and the decision of the upper court awaited with interest by all game shooters.

**ST. VALENTINE PRESIDES**

At Elegant Evening Entertainment of the Twentieth Century Club.

The benevolent St. Valentine presided most graciously at the entertainment of the Twentieth Century Club on the evening of Feb. 14th., which took place at the handsome home of Mr. and Mrs. Aug. Celaya on St. Francis street. The ladies appointed as hostesses for this occasion, besides Mrs. Celaya, were Mesdames McDavitt, Putegnat, Layton, Blum, and Miss Lott, and very charming hostesses they made. In accord with the calendar, they made it a real valentine party. High Five was the game as usual. The score cards were lovely heart-shaped valentines with perforations in the fancy border, to which a tiny gilt heart was attached for each game won, making beautiful souvenirs, especially to those who won many games. Heart shaped pads, prettily decorated also served for keeping count of points at each table, and the decorations throughout were likewise appropriate to the day. There were nine tables of players, including Messrs. and Mesdames Faisans, McDavitt, Benj. Kowalski, R. B. Creager, Ashheim, Blum, Ratcliffe, Wheeler, Mesdames F. D. Putegnat and E. K. Goodrich, Misses May Scanlan, Anna Kenedy, Lott, Julia L. Bollack, Beatrice Hooks, Goodrich, Geraldine Kelly, Messrs. Chas. More, E. L. Hicks, Rabb, Dworman, Newman, A. Celaya, Sauder, Wayne Wood, Buchanan and Dr. Eaves. Visitors from other places were Miss Mann of Cuero and Mr. Busby of Chicago.

Seven ladies tied for the first prize, Miss Goodrich winning on cutting the cards. This trophy was a beautiful bisque figure. The second ladies' prize, a handsome and unique jardiniere, was awarded to Mrs. Creager. Mr. Sauder was sole claimant for first place among the gentlemen and carried off as his reward a sterling silver match case. Two cut for the second gentlemen's prize, a pretty waste paper basket, Mr. Rabb winning.

Tempting chicken salad, wafers, salted almonds, bonbons and coffee constituted the refreshments which were served at the close of the game.

Some excellent music was rendered on the piano by Miss Scanlan, which was much enjoyed. Nothing was omitted by the ladies in charge to make it a delightful occasion, and such it was unanimously voted by the participants.

**No Court at Hidalgo.**

In the interests of the industrious people, especially the farmers and planters of Hidalgo county, the officials of Hidalgo county have addressed a petition to Judge Welch, asking to be relieved of the cost and burden of duty imposed on the people by the holding of the March term of the district court of said county.

There is not a single criminal in the jail and no pressing civil business, and we learn that the petition will be favorably considered and the term pretermitted.

We congratulate our neighbors on their condition and their relief from the onerous jury duty and expense that every term of court necessarily entails.

In recent years the construction of railways proceeded in Germany at the rate of about 621.5 miles a year. The entire mileage exceed at present 34,183 miles. The electrification of railways is still confined to a few suburban lines, where the system works satisfactorily.

Japanese have been caught circulating counterfeit gold coin in Tacoma. The molds and batteries were made at Hiroshima, Japan.

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